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Gift of
James H. Russell

REPORT

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V352

ON THE SUBJECT OF

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES,

BY

ALEXANDRE VATTEMARE.

1770-1824

to

*His excellency the Governor of the State of
Michigan*

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY J. AND G. S. GIDEON.

1848.

REPORT.

WASHINGTON CITY.

Nov: 20th 1848.

To his Excellency the Governor of *Michigan*

SIR: I have the honor to submit my first Report as the Agent for International Exchange for the State of *Michigan*.

In this Report will be considered—

I. The action of the Federal Government of the United States in relation to Exchanges.

II. The action of the State Legislatures upon the same subject.

III. A development of the plan, showing the mode in which the operations of Exchange are to be conducted; its expenses; the sources upon which it relies for revenue; the advantages to trade to be expected from its full realization; and, lastly, the moral bearing of the subject.

These subjects will be treated as briefly as their clear exposition will permit; and I earnestly invoke for them, in advance, your candid and favorable consideration.

I. Upon my first visit to America, in the year 1840, I submitted to the Congress of the United States a memorial, laying before that honorable body the outline of my system of International Exchange, and praying that its consideration might be referred to an appropriate committee, in order that such measures might be taken for its establishment as the committee, in its wisdom, should deem expedient. This memorial was presented on the 5th of February, 1840. It was referred to the Joint Committee on the Library, which brought in a favorable report, and the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by both Houses:

"1. Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Librarian, under the superintendence of the Committee on the Library, be [authorized] to exchange such duplicates as may be in the Library for other books or works.

"2. That he [be authorized] in the same way to exchange documents.

"3. That hereafter fifty additional copies of each volume of documents, printed by order of either House, be printed and bound for the purpose of exchange in foreign countries."

Encouraged by this liberal action on the part of Congress, I returned to France, in the expectation that the most flattering tokens of the appreciation by the American nation of the kindly feelings of the French would follow me, and afford substantial aid in my new labors in consolidating my system on the other side of the Atlantic. But owing to the employment of the word "authorized," instead of "directed," in the resolutions, nothing was accomplished; and, after an absence of eight years, which were

change in Europe, to be distributed
ites to secure, on a broader and
of the system.

re, or brought with me on my re-
ments, scientific works, objects of
tokens of esteem, good will, and
ive, the Chambers of Peers and
sters of Justice, War, Navy, Inte-
Instruction, Finances, and Public
ty of Paris; by the Academy of
olitical Sciences, and by the Mu-
he most distinguished statesmen,
ite individuals of France, to the
ited States; to the Departments of
States of Maine, Massachusetts,
ew Jersey, Pennsylvania, Mary-
Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Michi-
United States Military Academy at
r, Boston, Philadelphia, and Balti-
bridge, Brown's, Brunswick, and
ton, &c.; and, finally, to the Na-

ts of the intellectual labors of the
to the new, and so substantial an
vernment and people of my own
n with their brethren of America,
ions of success in the great under-
and allow me to say, in advance,
sappointed. The enlightened liber-
erica, has recognised at once the
d a generous and hearty recipro-

before Congress a second memo-
of my labors during my absence;
sposition of the Governments and
n; assigning the reasons why their
e, had not been carried into effect;

rights and copy rights may be so
lishers, taking out copy rights for
ôt of the central agency at New
it, copies of such work, in addition
osited in the Library of Congress.
panied by all necessary guards for
free all works and other objects
ugh the general depôt of exchange
k, exclusively for the purpose of

passed by both Houses of Congress,
and which have hitherto remained
ried into full effect, viz:

"1. *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Librarian, under the superintendence of the Committee on the Library, be [authorized] to exchange such duplicates as may be in the Library for other books or works.

"2. That he [be authorized] in the same way to exchange documents.

"3. That hereafter fifty additional copies of each volume of documents, printed by order of either House, be printed and bound for the purpose of exchange in foreign countries."

"To effect this, it will be requisite to re-pass a similar resolution, substituting the words, "and is hereby directed and required," for the word "authorized," and also, by assigning a place of deposit for, or otherwise disposing of, the fifty copies ordered to be furnished for exchange.

"4th. That the above regulations be understood as applying exclusively to works of a scientific character, and promotive of intellectual improvement; works of a different description being allowed to seek the usual channels opened by those engaged in the book trade.

"5th. That duplicates of the objects of curiosity and scientific interest, brought home by the late Exploring Expedition, (so honorable to the intelligence and liberality of your Government and country,) be directed to be assigned, by those having official control of the objects so collected, for the purpose of being exchanged, on authorized demand for them, for objects of a similar kind furnished by European Governments or learned bodies."

On the 4th of May, 1848, the Hon. Mr. Murphy, from the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress, brought in a report highly favorable to the petition of the memorial, and which closes with the following recommendation:

"In the views of the memorialist generally the committee are happy to concur. After the success which has thus far crowned his unwearied and voluntary labors, they think his expectations of aid from us have been justly formed, and should be promptly satisfied. They therefore recommend that the committee be authorized to establish such agencies, and organize such a plan of donation and exchange as they may deem best for this purpose; that all books sent to the Federal or State governments, to any departments, or libraries of either, to the academy at West Point, or to the National Institute, be admitted duty free; and that the sum of two thousand dollars be appropriated to enable the committee to carry the measure into effect."

A bill in harmony with these recommendations was reported, and on the 26th of June became a law:

"AN ACT to regulate the exchange of certain documents and other publications of Congress.

"*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Joint Committee on the Library shall appoint such agents as they may, from time to time, deem requisite, to carry into effect the donation and exchange of such documents and other publications as have been or shall be placed at their disposal for the purpose.

"SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all books transmitted through such agents for the use of the Government of the United States, or of any

are, or of any department of the State, or of the Academy at West be admitted into the United States

That the sum of two thousand dollars in the treasury not otherwise at the disposal of the Library Committee effect such donation and exchange, and in relation thereto.

of this act, I was appointed the Special Exchange by the following resolution

COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS,
"July 25, 1848.

be appointed agent to the Joint effect the donation and exchange are or shall be placed at the disposal under the act 'to regulate the exchange of publications of Congress;' said in the directions of the committee. The agency shall extend only to exchange with foreign countries or governments,

from the treasury, and place in the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, part of the sum applied to his personal expenses during the year ending 30th June, 1848, clerk hire, freight, rent of rooms, and his agency; and that said agent be appointed by the committee concerning the expenditure

furnished, for the purposes of exchange represented.]

the law above quoted is that which exempts exchange duty free. The heavy drawback upon the operation of the provision, and to prevent its being a source of revenue, the Secretary of the Treasury

and other officers of the customs.

DEPARTMENT, August 14, 1848.

l 'An act to regulate the exchanges of Congress,' approved 26th March 1848, whereby managements of international exchanges, thereby maintaining the duty devolves upon the intentions of Congress, by regulations as will, whilst facilitating

this great enterprise, protect the system itself from abuse, as well as the revenue from any attempted frauds and impositions.

"It will be perceived that this act exempts from duty 'all books' transmitted through the agents appointed by the Joint Committee on the Library, 'for the use of the Government of the United States, or of any government of a State, or of its Legislature, or of any department of the Government of the United States, or of a State, or of the Academy at West Point, or of the National Institute.'

"The Joint Library Committee of Congress, under date of the 25th July, 1848, in pursuance of the authority vested in them by the before-mentioned act, adopted, amongst others, the following resolutions, viz:

"*Resolved*, That Alexandre Vattemare be appointed agent to the Joint Committee on the Library to carry into effect the donation and exchange of such books and other publications as are or shall be placed at the disposal of the committee for this purpose, under the act to regulate the exchange of certain documents and other publications of Congress; said agent to be, in all respects, subject to the direction of the committee.

"*Resolved*, That the said Vattemare's agency shall extend only to exchanges between the United States and foreign countries and governments, and not to domestic exchanges."

"By the foregoing resolutions it will be perceived that the agency to conduct these exchanges has been conferred upon Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, the author of the system, to whose talents, zeal, and indefatigable exertions, the civilized world is indebted for the conception and consummation of the system, destined, it is confidently believed, to realize all the benefits anticipated by its distinguished author and promoter.

"According to the suggestion of Mr. Vattemare, the central agency of this enterprise will be established at Paris, with subordinate agencies in the capitals of other States or countries uniting in the system. To prevent fraud and imposition, all documents and other publications transmitted to the United States must bear the stamp of the central agency at Paris, to be impressed, in the case of books or pamphlets, on the *first* and *last* pages of the text of each volume; in the case of charts, maps, prints, &c., the stamp to be on some convenient place on the face thereof. The boxes or packages will be addressed to the care of the collector of the customs of the port in the United States to which they may be shipped, accompanied by a letter of advice and a descriptive list. On their arrival the collector is enjoined to take careful charge of the same, notifying the department of their receipt, and await instructions for their disposal.

"R. J. WALKER, *Secretary of the Treasury*."

In addition to the law above given, which recognises the system, and provides for its support, Congress passed a number of joint resolutions, which are given below, setting apart for purposes of exchange a large number of important works:

"*Acts and resolutions of Congress in relation to international exchanges.*

"IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

"April 27, 1848.

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate be authorized and directed to purchase one hundred copies of Hickey's edition of the Constitution of

me, in the name of the Senate of
attemare, of Paris, to be distributed
m of national exchange of books.
BURY DICKINS, *Secretary*."

to the government of France of a series of
United States, and for other purposes.

Representatives of the United States
the Secretary of State be directed
e complete series of the standard
States, now in the Department of
nt of France, and that he furnish
y twenty-five copies of Little &
nited States, to be disposed of by
ange.

That seven copies of the *Exploring*
l number of such of the works of
, be placed at the disposal of the
or the purpose of international ex-

necessary to the proper conduct of
considerable weight. The Senate,
ations, passed the resolutions which
ansmission to all letters and papers
was lost in the House, in the last

se of Representatives of the United
, That Alexandre Vattemare, agent
changes, be, and he is hereby, au-
ntaining books, public documents,
sent to him from any foreign coun-
nited States to any foreign country;
es appertaining to international ex-
to extend to the mail lines of the
ided," &c., &c.

is measure, will be so apparent up-
s to secure its adoption by a future

the Secretary of the Senate and the
as well as with the various Depart-
which a regular interchange of all
all be made, as fast as these docu-
French Government. These do-
steamer, and thus each of the two
possession of all the public proceed-
not fail to produce the happiest re-
is letter complying with my request
ith regard to the proceedings of the

Senate, the Secretary, the Hon. Asbury Dickens, makes the following remarks:

"The judgment of the civilized world has sanctioned your scheme of international exchanges. Of that comprehensive work one of the most important branches is the prompt communication, among enlightened nations, of the proceedings of their several legislatures, and the documents connected with them. Each is thus enabled to profit early by the wisdom and experience of all.

"Between the two great republics of the Old and the New World, more especially, should this mutual aid be active and complete. The measure in which you ask my co-operation is well calculated to make it so."

Liberal as has thus been the spirit in which the Federal Congress has received and acted upon the proposals for the establishment of an intellectual union between the old and new worlds, the various departments of the Government were in no respect behind them. All seemed to share in a generous rivalry of good feeling and substantial encouragement for the cause of universal peace. The following brief summary will give some idea of the action taken by the various departments of the General Government, in relation to the system of exchanges:

The DEPARTMENT of STATE has contributed a collection of valuable books, among which may be mentioned a complete collection of Niles' Register, and an immense number of volumes of the local laws of the various States of the Union, &c., &c.

The DEPARTMENT of the TREASURY has added largely to the materiel of exchange by contributions of books, documents, circulars, &c., &c. Among these may be more particularly noticed complete collections of the documents on the Commerce and Navigation of the United States, many hundred circulars, collections of Tariff laws, and, in short, every thing relating to the business of the Department. In addition to these valuable contributions of books, the Secretary of the Treasury has rendered immense service to the system by the liberal manner in which he has interpreted and acted upon the law of Congress, in the circular which has been already quoted. Besides this circular, which will so greatly facilitate the business transactions of the system, he has issued a second one, scarcely less important as a measure of convenience and economy; for the storage and forwarding of so great a number of large and heavy cases as must be constantly circulating in the channels of exchange, must form an item in the expenses of the system of no inconsiderable importance.

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *October 23, 1848.*

"SIR: Referring you to the circular instructions from this department of the 14th August last, in relation to the system of international exchanges proposed by Mr. Alexandre Vattemare, and adopted by the act of Congress 'to regulate the exchange of certain documents and other publications of Congress,' approved the 26th June, 1848, I have now to advise you that the port of New York has been selected as the *dépôt* from which the articles in exchange will be transmitted from the United States to France.

"You are accordingly authorized and directed to cause to be carefully kept in the *Atlantic dock stores* of your port, all such packages of books, &c., as may be sent under the agency of Mr. Vattemare from any part of

in exchange, until forwarded by Mr.

obedient servant,

"R. J. WALKER.
Director of Customs, New York."

er which is included the Military
more than 500 volumes of valuable

s made presentations of the greatest
ge collection of books, maps, charts,
of the vessels of every class, and of
ection of all the varieties of wood
riment vessels.

ICE has presented collections of its
maps of the post roads of the United

d more than 500 volumes of reports
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ction.

ed measures, voted by Congress, has
his office.

umerous maps and charts, and works
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ibuted a collection of scientific works.

ented a very handsome collection of
shington to the city of Paris. The
in a handsome pamphlet, printed at
so gives a full report of the proceed-
s, called by the mayor, for the pur-
Federal Metropolis towards her sis-
Old World. The books have been
form a gift truly worthy of the Cap-

osely brief, it will be seen that the
d with the most gratifying unanimity
very branch of the Federal Govern-
by munificent gifts, but by legal pro-
liberal basis, the future operations of
and shall hereafter co-operate in its
h they wish to exchange to the Cus-
tainty that they will there be safely
y; while, at the same time, the re-
ved at the same depository, to await
ations. The Government has thus
st important functionaries the agent

for the safe-keeping and transmission of the materiel of Exchange. The effect of this measure upon the regularity and stability of the operations of the system are to obvious too need comment.

THE UNITED STATES MINT, at Philadelphia, has been directed, by the Secretary of the Treasury, to furnish a complete series of the coins of the United States, together with copies of all medals ordered by the Government. They are in return for a series of medals illustrative of the history of France, presented by the French Government to that establishment.

The AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, though not connected in any way with the Government, may yet, with propriety, be mentioned here as a public establishment, having its business centre at the Federal Metropolis. The following letter from the Secretary of the Society will show the willingness of that Association to co-operate in the establishment of the system of Exchange:

“COLONIZATION ROOMS,
“Washington City, September 15, 1848.

“MY DEAR SIR: Being aware of the efforts which you are making to establish a system of National Exchanges, and desiring to contribute something towards so great and noble an object, I present herewith, in the name of the *American Colonization Society*, one set of the *African Repository*, its monthly publication, and of its annual reports, together with a map of Liberia, census, &c., for the Minister of Marine of your country, and another set for the library of the city of Paris. For these publications will be found a complete history of colonization as carried by this society on the western coast of Africa, which has already resulted in the establishment of the independent republic of Liberia.

“Thus, through your indefatigable efforts, any citizen of Paris or stranger visiting there, can make himself acquainted with the history and prospects of one of the noblest schemes of philanthropy and benevolence which mark the present age.

“The Republic of Liberia would doubtless be glad to participate in the benefits which you are bestowing upon mankind. It is true they as yet have no *books*; they, however, have two newspapers, which have been regularly published for several years; they have also a volume of their laws published by authority, and from one of their own press. They have also great richness in their animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, and could doubtless furnish, in return for books, many objects of interest to your country.

“As everything connected with Africa, and with the history of colonization in other parts of the world, is interesting and valuable to the members of our Society, any contribution of the kind which you may have in your power to collect for us will be most thankfully received, and you will thus add another to the many reasons which our countrymen have to cherish you in their memories.

“I am, dear sir, your very obedient servant,

“W. McLAIN, Sec. A. C. S.

“A. VATTMARE, Esq., Washington city.”

In addition to the works mentioned in the above were many others illustrative of the history of colonization, specimens of the fruits and woods of Liberia, &c., &c.

account of all that has been done at
 port and encouragement of the system
 report, as stated above, will be a con-
 State Legislatures upon the subject.

America I submitted a memorial to
 , which was referred by that body to
 , from whose report I beg leave to

and the passage of the resolves which
 propose in these to exchange the laws
 , published by the authority of this
 e and other European governments.”

* * * * *
 amend, that a sum not exceeding one
 be expended in promoting a system
 Governments of Europe of the produc-
 of perfected art and of literature.
 ed by our country, whose institutions
 air infancy, can hardly be appreciated

report set apart, for the purpose of
 documents, authorizing the Governor
 ents of the system, and place at his
 usand dollars, “for the collection and
 atural history and productions of use-

be established upon a *permanent basis*,
 ing and a speedy death, I opposed so
 mit recommended by the committee,
 mark for the advocates of retrench-
 stance of the plan. The Legislature,
 nally determined upon an annual ap-

six years, I returned to the State of
 inted upon my first visit to America,
 ernor, by a special message, invited
 e subject of my mission. The mes-
 nittee on the Library, which brought
 omended the passage of numerous
 ollowing:

ive and useful books and documents
 entrusted by various authorities and
 y of this State, should be received
 value and the distinguished sources
 s much higher interest as tokens of
 ch nation towards America; and that
 ent, with a grateful remembrance of
 ope of a continued and increasing

of various works in the State library

(not otherwise required) be tendered M. Vattemare in continuation of the system of international exchanges so auspiciously commenced. The selections to be made under the supervision of the Secretary of State.

"Resolved, That one thousand copies of "Instructions on the best mode of collecting, preserving, and transporting objects of Natural History," be printed, under the superintendence of the botanic surveyor of the State, and distributed, under his direction, to those societies and individuals within the State that might aid in promoting the designs of said instructions: reserving to M. Vattemare the number of copies of the "Instructions" he may desire, for his own use."

The report of the committee, and all the proceedings of the government of Maine in relation to exchanges, have been printed in an elegant executive document, which reflects the highest credit upon her typographical skill and taste.

The whole action of this State has been in the highest degree honorable to her liberality and appreciation of learning and the arts, and has evinced the most praiseworthy anxiety to place within the reach of her people all the elements of increased cultivation and improvement which the literature, science, and art of the Old World can afford. It is hoped that arrangements will be made for securing the permanence of her appropriation for the support of the system, which will enable the agency to rely with confidence upon it as one of its constant means of support.

VERMONT.—Early in November, 1847, in accordance with a previous notice, I visited Montpelier, to lay before the Legislature of Vermont an exposition of the system, and to request their co-operation. The Governor at once communicated the fact to the Legislature by a special message, in which he speaks of the benefits likely to result from the adoption of the system as "of the highest value," and such as "should commend it to the support of every intelligent and high-minded people." An address was delivered before the Legislature, explaining the plan, and giving an account of what had been done towards carrying it into operation. The message of the Governor was referred to the Joint Library Committee, which brought in an excellent and eloquent report, from which I beg leave to make the following extracts:

"The splendid specimens of art, and the gorgeous volumes exhibited in the State Library, (the presents of the French nation,) naturally suggest the inquiry, 'What can we give in exchange for things like these?' Your committee answer, almost in the words of the memorialist,—all products of American genius, taste, industry, or invention—whatever serves to illustrate our history—our public documents and laws—the rich stores of nature herself—our plants, our animals, including quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, fishes, and insects—our minerals, specimens of our various kinds of wood, with the description, uses, and peculiarities of each—these would, from their very novelty, afford to the scientific men of Europe greater pleasure than the most costly book."

"Several of our sister States have anticipated us in this enterprise, and already enjoy their reward in their public libraries, enriched by the productions of European genius, and in their public halls and galleries adorned with the triumphs of ancient and modern art. What then shall be done by

ful structure be the depository of
rpass its architectural beauty? If
e and high endowments, and take
the earth, now, and now only, is

admirable report recommend that
law to be preserved, be set apart
hundred copies of "Instructions
g, and transporting objects of na-
o hundred dollars for the support

y carried out: a handsome collec-
s, to be presented in the name of

a report far beyond the limits I
minute detail upon the action taken
ore, to confine myself to as brief
ngs. The following resolves and
in the course adopted by Massa-

*d Scientific Exchanges with for-
ries.*

Commonwealth, under the direc-
authorized to exchange copies of
exceeding twenty in number, and
documents of the Commonwealth
ing fifty volumes of each, for books
foreign countries, to be deposited
id the Secretary is hereby author-
said documents, for every future
umber, to be bound in volumes, and
re for said Exchanges hereafter.*
Governor, be authorized to appoint
r of Paris, France, to be the agent
, and receiving from, the Secre-
orks of science and art, as may be
e object of the preceding resolve,
rges of said agent for the receiv-
of said objects of Exchange; pro-
not exceed three hundred dollars.
26, 1845. Passed.

L. H. WALLEY, Jr., *Speaker.*
sed.

"LEVI LINCOLN, *President.*

"GEO. N. BRIGGS.

retary's office, March 15, 1845.

HN G. PALFREY, *Secretary.*

Legislative documents, 13 copies of the
have been transmitted.

"MY DEAR SIR: I send you herewith a copy of Résolves passed by our Legislature at its present session.

"I have it in charge from his excellency, the Governor, to say that he requests you to accept the appointment of agent under the second of the Résolves, and that he has no doubt that this Commonwealth will derive important benefits from your enlightened and liberal exertions.

"I am, dear sir, with the highest regard, your friend and servant,

"JOHN G. PALFREY,

"Secretary of the Commonwealth."

"To A. VATTÉMARE, Esq., *Paris, France.*"

RHODE ISLAND.—The letter of Prof. Jewett, which follows, gives a succinct statement of the action of this State:

"BROWN UNIVERSITY, *Providence, January 29th, 1846.*

"DEAR SIR: Your letter to the Governor has been received, presented to the Legislature, and referred to the committee on education; the chairman of the committee, M. Goddard, formerly a professor in our college, presented a report, with resolutions, thanking you for your generous exertions, and particularly for your handsome presents, and voting several extra copies of all reports and documents published by the State, and authorizing the Governor to pay all charges that may occur for the packing up and transportation of said books, and any others to be sent to us from Paris, through your agency. This was carried through the House and Senate unanimously, and it is, I believe, the only question which has been decided unanimously in our Legislature for a long time.

"You will probably receive the report and the votes by this steamer, or the next.

"The Rhode Island Historical Society have also passed votes of thanks and resolutions in favor of your project, which you will receive soon."

NEW YORK.—On the 25th of Oct. 1847, the joint library committee of the two houses to which was referred the message of the Governor, the communication of the trustees of the State Library, and other documents relative to the system of international exchanges, brought in a report in which, after commenting in the most approving terms upon the system, and showing the rich fruits to be anticipated by the State and the country from its establishment, they recommend the passage of the act accompanying the report, in the following remarks:

"It seems, to your committee, proper that some testimonial more substantial than mere words of kindness and approbation should be afforded to this enterprise—that, in order to secure the future success and *permanency* of the system, some suitable person in Europe should be appointed, as the agent of this State, in transmitting and receiving all such books and other works as are intended as subjects of International Exchange.

"For that purpose, as well as for facilitating and encouraging the interchange between the several States of the American Union, your committee recommend to your consideration the bill, a copy of which is hereto annexed, marked A. An appropriation of five hundred dollars, for the promotion of these objects, was made by this State in the year 1846. (See Session Laws of 1846, p. 479.) The States of Maine and Massachusetts

ual appropriation of three hundred
ncy in Paris only. These sums,
ropriated by all the States and Gov-
opened his system of interchanges,
expenses of the agency, together
s of the system, and secure to it a
success.”

he System of International Literary Exchanges.

represented in Senate and Assembly,

advice and consent of the Senate,
ing in Europe, to be the agent of
ig from this State all such works as
Exchange.

ars is hereby appropriated, to be
of the Comptroller, to the Regents
in defraying the expense of such
y shall deem best for the promo-
cientific International Exchanges,
s between this State and the other

dollars, to be paid as aforesaid, in
hereby appropriated for the same

liately.”

ucation of this State, on the 21st of
hich they dwell with great force
y, and conclude in the following

roduce a two-fold benefit. On the
knowledge of our country, where
on the other hand, excite and in-
population, a spirit of inquiry, and
o what other nations are accom-
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the State of New Jersey, (Senate
be directed to present to M. Vat-
r of Deputies and the Minister of
ie thanks of the Legislature of the
esent of books made by them to
same, that M. Vattermare be pre-
its and laws, together with such
the history and resources of our

State, as your committee shall select from the library of the State, to be distributed by him in such manner as he may think best calculated to effect the object of his important enterprise."

The joint resolutions adopted by the legislature are as follows:

"Joint resolutions relative to M. A. VATTEMARE'S system of International Literary and Scientific Exchanges, and to provide for the support of an agency at Paris, in France.

"1. *Be it resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*, That the sum of three hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated to defray the expense of an agency in the city of Paris, in France, for the purpose of receiving and transmitting such works as may be made the subject of international exchanges.

"2. *And be it resolved*, That the Governor of this State be, and is hereby, authorized to appoint some suitable person as agent for the State of New Jersey at the city of Paris, in France.

"3. *And be it resolved*, That the said sum of three hundred dollars be transmitted by the Secretary of State, whenever officially informed that such agency has been duly established; and that the said agent be requested to report semi-annually, to the Governor of this State, of all his transactions and proceedings relative thereto."

PENNSYLVANIA.—My first application to the State of Pennsylvania was made on the 10th of April, 1848. Although it was the last day of the session, I was received and heard with the utmost kindness, and the following handsome preamble and resolutions unanimously adopted:

"Resolutions relative to International Exchanges, proposed by Alexander Vattemare.

"WHEREAS, Monsieur Alexander Vattemare, a citizen of the Republic of France, having patriotically devoted his time, talents, and fortune, for a period of twenty years, to bring about and perfect a system of International Exchange of specimens of natural history and works of science and art between the different nations of the world;

"AND WHEREAS, said Monsieur Alexander Vattemare having presented to the Commonwealth at various times, since the year 1843, a large number of rare and valuable works, which have been deposited in the State library;

"AND WHEREAS, said Monsieur Alexander Vattemare having, at the request of the Pennsylvania delegation in the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States, visited the capital of this Commonwealth for the purpose of conferring with the Legislature and officers of the government in reference to the most expedient measures to be pursued in furtherance of his most praiseworthy and important enterprise;

AND WHEREAS, the present session of the Legislature being about to expire, it is impracticable for it at this time to take such part in the consideration of the question as it otherwise would take great interest and pleasure in doing; therefore,

"*Be it resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly met, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same*, That the Governor and Secretary of this Commonwealth be, and they are hereby, authorized and requested to confer with said Monsieur Alexander Vattemare, du-

on the subject referred to in the pre-
 at such measures as they may deem
 ct in view, and report thereon at the

“WILLIAM F. PACKER,
cker of the House of Representatives.
 “WM. WILLIAMSON,
ker of the Senate.

one thousand eight hundred and forty
 “FRS. R. SHUNK.”

laware, in a letter dated January,
 the plan before the next Legislature,
 on of (his) cordial approval,” and
 ay views not only the influence of an
 nt of his personal sanction.

sion of the Legislature, in 1841, the
 ch he recommended the adoption of
 10th of March, 1842, the following

f Maryland, passed March 10, 1842.

sembly of Maryland, That fifty copies
 urnals of the Senate and House of
 printed for distribution among the
 of this State, shall be, and the several
 authorized to deposite the same in
 xchange in foreign countries; that the
 ized and required to have the same
 ra copies of the laws, public docu-
 ne House of Delegates, together with
 the Library, as the Joint Committee
 its of foreign countries in the United
 for the above purpose.”
 owing resolution was adopted:

l March 9, 1844.

Issembly of Maryland, That, for the
 olution of December session, 1841,
 form certain duties, that his excel-
 ay, out of any unappropriated money
 s may be necessary, under the said
 curred in the exchange of surplus
 s of foreign countries, as may from
 t Committee on the Library.”

1848, the Governor of Virginia ad-
 which I beg leave to make the fol-

“EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

“*Richmond, Virginia, April 5, 1848.*

“DEAR SIR: You will receive, herewith, sundry resolutions of the General Assembly of Virginia, adopted on the 23d of March, 1848, in which that body, expressing the sentiment of Virginia, approve your ‘noble design,’ applaud the spirit which conceived, and the enthusiasm which has achieved it, and tender you the agency for this State for the purpose of sustaining and continuing it.”

The resolutions accompanying this letter were the following:

“*Resolutions of the General Assembly of Virginia.*

“Whereas the Legislature of Virginia regards with interest the noble design of a national interchange of productions of art, science, industry, and natural history, projected by Mons. Alexandre Vattemare, and patronized with such magnificence by the French Government, and is desirous of contributing to a work so important—

“*Resolved by the General Assembly,* That the spirit which has conceived this design is as admirable as the disinterested enthusiasm which has achieved it; and that this Legislature, as a testimonial of its appreciation of the character and services of its distinguished author, hereby invite him to visit the halls of Legislature during the session of the Legislature, and hereby tender to him the appointment of agent for the State of Virginia for conducting the exchange of such subjects as may be presented by Virginia to France.

“*Resolved,* That the Legislature has learned with gratitude that France, of whose prosperity we always hear with pleasure, and in whose misfortunes we always sympathize, has presented to Virginia literary works of a rare, useful, and costly character, for which it is incumbent to make some return, even if inadequate.

“*Resolved,* That the State Librarian be instructed to forward to the agent of International Exchanges such copies of the Code and of the Law Reports, of the Journals and other legislative documents, or other works, as may be spared without detriment to the library. He shall forward such reports of the moral, social, and political statistics of Virginia, as may tend to diffuse amongst other nations a correct knowledge of her institutions, her condition, and her capacities; that he shall likewise forward any private donations intended for the department of International Exchanges; and that he be required to report annually to the Joint Committee of the Library.”

INDIANA.—The following letter from the Governor of this State, with the resolutions which accompany it, will show the highly liberal course which she has pursued in relation to exchanges. I ought to add that all the proceedings of her Legislature upon the subject have been printed together in an executive document which, for typographical beauty, would do credit to the oldest State in the Union:

“INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, March 2, 1848.

“DEAR SIR: Your letter, and the accompanying documents with which I was favored, were duly laid before the Legislature of this State at its last session, with a recommendation of your proposed system of International Literary Exchanges. In accordance with my expressed wish, a joint res-

viewed upon it, is my fervent wish.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

"JAMES WHITCOMB,

"Governor of India

STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF INDIANA.

Relative to International Literary Exchanges

General Assembly of the State of Indiana, The

Secretary of State by a Joint Resolution, approved January

a Joint Resolution approved January

International Literary Exchanges, be, and

on the State librarian, who is directed

Rooms all necessary shelves and cases

ing of such Exchanges as shall be presented

Also, in his annual report to the General Assembly

detailed statement of their extent and

that Alexandre Vattemare, who projects

exchanges, and is now in the United States

development and general adoption, is just

General Assembly and the people of Indiana

is in establishing for them a direct interchange

Europe, of which valuable fruits have already

and, in testimony of their appreciation

Alexandre Vattemare is hereby invited, to

the capital of Indiana at his earliest convenience

confering with the Governor in relation

the best method of rendering it permanent

the State; and the Governor is hereby authorized

arrangements, within the means granted by

actually and amply accomplish the object

State, who shall issue the same on the certificate of the Governor that the amount certified has been properly expended.

"Be it further resolved, That there shall be annually printed and bound fifty extra copies of all laws, resolves, journals, and legislative documents, which shall be especially set apart for International Exchanges; and the Governor and State Librarian are hereby authorized to select such duplicate works in the State Library as can be spared, to be used for the same purpose.

"Be it further resolved, That the instructions on the best mode of collecting, preserving, and transporting objects of natural history, which were communicated with the documents accompanying the Governor's special message, be added to the documentary journal, and that five hundred extra copies be printed for distribution, under the direction of the Governor, with such other documents as he shall deem useful and proper.

"Be it further resolved, That the Governor be requested to communicate a copy of this Joint Resolution to said Alexandre Vattemare.

"WILLIAM A. PORTER,

"Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"PARIS C. DUNNING,

"President of the Senate.

"Approved, February 12, 1848.

"JAMES WHITCOMB."

MICHIGAN.—On the 12th of March, 1844, the following preamble and resolutions passed the Legislature of Michigan:

"Preamble and Joint Resolution relative to Mons. Vattemare's system of International Literary Exchanges.

"WHEREAS Mons. Alexandre Vattemare, a citizen of France, has, with an unexampled zeal, devoted his time, his energies, and his fortune, to the philanthropic effort of establishing an intellectual confederacy among the nations of the earth:

"AND WHEREAS his system of International Literary Exchanges is not only promotive of science and the improvement of literature and the arts, but is also conducive to the fraternization of governments, and the diffusion of civilization throughout the globe:

"AND WHEREAS the project has been approved by the Chambers and Ministers of France, by the Congress of the United States, and the Legislatures of several of the States, and by the statesmen and literati of both nations—

"Be it therefore resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, That in grateful acknowledgments of his disinterested labors in the cause of humanity, and for the valuable works presented by him to the State, the thanks of the people of Michigan are respectfully tendered to Mons. Alexandre Vattemare by the Representatives of the people in Legislature convened.

"Resolved, That his Excellency, the Governor, be, and he hereby is, authorized and requested to receive the parcel of books transmitted by Mons. Vattemare, through Lewis Cass, jr., esq., to the State of Michigan, and also the parcel consigned to E. Thayer & Co., forwarding merchants in the city of New York, and to place the same in the State Library.

and he hereby is, further authorized
to prepare a copy of the revised sta-
tutes of Michigan, together with the journals
of the Legislature, and such maps of the

State, and he hereby is, authorized and
empowered to send to the next Legislature what duplicate
statutes of Michigan are in his department of the

Legislature, and our Repre-
sentatives be instructed, and our Repre-
sentatives to obtain the appointment of
a committee of the General Government, to
conduct Literary Exchanges be-

and he is hereby, requested to trans-
mit a report of the committee on edu-
cation to each of our Senators and

“EDWIN N. LOTHROP,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“EDWIN M. CURT,
President of the Senate, (pro tem.)

“JNO. S. BARRY.”

system of International Exchanges pro-
posed, which may be grasped by the intel-
ligent, is designed to give to the intellectual
world the same dissemination and equalization
of its material ones. By means of the
system, which can administer to the support,
which exist in superabundance in one
part, that every nation enjoys all that can
be had, a gentleman is indebted for the
elegance of his dress, and the splendor of his
life to the globe. The system of exchanges
was proposed for its comprehensive design to
draw from all the sources of intellectual culture
possessed by the most favored of its
members, the object by means which shall open,
and good fellowship between the par-

liamentary has long been in operation with
particular departments of human
knowledge, the importance, the indispen-
sible advance of its great interests, and
that are in the constant receipt of the
aid of their collaborators in the great cause. Its
results, which everywhere surround
us, are a sufficient testimonial to
show that even these exchanges have sought

the ordinary channels of trade, and have been subjected to all the interruptions and burdened with all the taxes which encumber it.

The system of exchange does not propose to interfere in any way with any similar plan already in operation. Its main design is to open a channel of communication between the PEOPLE of the various nations of the world, which shall bring them together upon the neutral ground of letters, and by making them better acquainted with each others' laws, manners and customs and intellectual wealth, by acts of mutual kindness and courtesy, to cultivate the spirit of peace and of reciprocal respect and good feeling.

Extensive business arrangements are necessary to carry out the plan. It was proposed to establish in the United States a central *depôt*, to which all objects of exchange can be transmitted to be shipped to foreign countries, and where all returns from abroad may be received and sent to their respective destinations in America. It will be seen, by reference to the two Treasury circulars before quoted, that this *depôt* is, by the official act of the Treasury Department, established at the New York Custom House.

In connection with this *depôt* will be a similar one in Paris, through which all exchanges are to pass. The *depôt* in Paris will also be the seat of the GENERAL AGENCY, which will have the management of all the business of exchange, where all the responsibility for its faithful conduct will rest, and to which all subordinates will be accountable. The GENERAL AGENCY will employ subordinate agents in the capitals of all the nations and states which unite in the support of the system, who will be paid by it and report to it: these agents will be charged with the receipt and transmission of all objects of exchange, and all the transactions of the general agency with their State or Nation, will be conducted through them.

Such is, in brief, an outline of the *machinery* which it is in contemplation to employ. The necessity for it will be apparent from a few obvious considerations which I have already urged in a communication which I had the honor to submit to the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress during the past session, from which I beg leave to make the following extract:

"In the conduct of a system involving such a number of multifarious operations, *unity of action* is the first of all the conditions of success. A single establishment, ramifying itself by means of its agents wherever its operations demand its presence, must be made the responsible head, from which all the transactions of Exchange throughout the world are to be controlled and directed, and where all accountability is to rest. Division of this responsibility would lessen its force, and would take away the necessary guaranty for the faithful execution of the trusts imposed.

"With this view, and in accordance with the united opinions of the ablest men and the first scientific bodies of both continents, Paris has been selected as the seat of a CENTRAL AGENCY, having collateral branches in the capitals of the several States who unite in the support of the system. It will form the great heart—receiving from all quarters, and transmitting to all, the intellectual life-blood of the nations—their literature, science, and arts. All the agents of the system will be responsible to the Central Agency, and it, in its turn, will be responsible to the nations which make it the channel of their exchanges.

"For the support of this Agency, an estimate was submitted to you several months ago, which I beg leave to recapitulate here:

-	-	-	\$1,000
-	-	-	450
-	-	-	400
s of States,	-	-	3,000
port	-	-	2,000
-	-	-	400
-	-	-	1,500
-	-	-	1,500
			<hr/>
-	-	-	\$10,250

estimate is one of the most important and most certain guaranty for the faithful support of the system, as the books, and other articles of exhibit, in the minutest detail, not only, but the disposition made of funds, so that every institution and printed even the smallest pamphlet for certain at once whether it has been

The system of accountability will, while thus operating as a salutary and useful, will serve the further, and not the institutions of the various countries in ascertaining what each might obtain and desired could be procured. The operation has been compared to the circulation of bills, which correspond to the function of money, and appropriate whatever is best adapted for

of the Agency, \$2,300 have already been secured from the twenty-three States of various States, viz:

-	-	-	\$300
-	-	-	300
-	-	-	200
-	-	-	400
-	-	-	300
-	-	-	400
-	-	-	400

\$2,300

the Federal Government, (\$2,000,) to be secured from the twenty-three States on the subject. The interest everywhere in the success of the system, warily the fourteen other States which I have mentioned on the subject, in terms favorable, but every State in the Union in support of the Central Agency at

in the above extract that the sums are seemingly small, yet they will be still

farther diminished when the system has once been put in full operation, and all its transactions reduced to perfect regularity. Trifling as these sums individually are, the aggregate of them forms the working capital of the system, and hence the indispensable necessity of their being made *permanent*. The sole object of asking them at all is to secure the permanence of the relations which the system of exchange has already been so successful in establishing between the civilized nations of the world; relations, the importance of which can not be diminished by time. I have therefore most respectfully, but most earnestly, to request that some measure may be recommended to the legislature of your State, calculated to place the annual appropriation beyond the reach of those causes which might operate temporarily to interrupt it. Thus the CENTRAL AGENCY would be enabled to found its expenses upon a perfectly safe basis.

In France, an old country, with a dense population, where the business relations of men are marked by a permanence and solidity which the circumstances and wants of a new country forbid, it would be impossible for me to secure the services of such men as the duties of the agency will require, unless I had it in my power to offer them the surest guaranties of the certainty and permanence of the means upon which I rely for their remuneration. I trust the importance of these considerations will lead to such action on the part of the various States, whose agent I have the honor to have been appointed, as will relieve my mind from all anxiety on the subject.

A brief notice of the advantages which may reasonably be expected from the full realization of the system of Exchange will close this report, which I fear has already extended beyond the limits which I ought to have set to my demands upon your patience.

To America, it is believed that the increased knowledge and appreciation of her intellectual wealth and resources, which must result from the wide dissemination of her products of mind throughout the civilized world, would be more than a full remuneration for a hundred times the expenditure which is necessary to secure it; if, indeed, any pecuniary estimate is not wholly out of place in calculating the value of such appreciation. It is a lamentable fact that the United States does not occupy that high place, in European estimation, to which her social and national position entitle her. She is either seen through the distorted medium of a foreign press, or judged from the narrations of ignorant, prejudiced, or mercenary travelers, who visit her shores merely to discover such faults and foibles as will enable them to make a saleable book. Had the people of Europe an opportunity of learning your wise and salutary laws; the peaceful, yet powerful working of your free Government; your admirable institutions for the punishment of vice, and the relief of honest poverty; the freedom of your religious views, and the universal means of education which you possess; your public works and public press, rivalling each other in public benefit; your immense natural resources, and the enterprising industry of your citizens; could this knowledge but be diffused, Europe would at once be forced to respect and admire you for other than military or commercial triumphs, and feel proud that your continent was peopled by her sons.

One great step towards the spread of the knowledge of America and her institutions in Europe has already been made by the system of Exchange in the formation of AN AMERICAN LIBRARY in the city of Paris. This library is already in existence, and contains a highly valuable collection of

...danced with the history and genius
to American patriotism to aid me in
ent to the intellect and liberality of the
trade which must be derived from
works placed in the great Government
standing advertisement of the publish
quire that it should be more than hinte
important American inventions. The A
of his right in, or the credit he deserve
ings, specification, and model were depo
evidence of his claim. This view wa
al head of the U. S. Patent Office w
f the specifications and drawings of tl
d during the past year, to be presente
griculture of France.

GENERAL AGENCY, when once it is full;
with great advantage, be extended so as
main design. Statistical information c
for dissemination, and as an object dir
to promote international good will—a
d upon it which should be charged w
shing them with every species of i
to which they propose to remove, the
condition, the expenses of transportati
their comfort, &c., &c. Artisans migh
ir labors would be most likely to me
deserving be furnished with certificate
come and good treatment upon their
to show that the system contains with
are yet undeveloped.

It affords to the formation of new l
prominent benefits promised by the
the most certain elements of its own pe
in every quarter of the world, of free
open to the use of the people. For th

a library, has, in its specimens of natural history, its animal, vegetable, and mineral productions, an almost exhaustless fund, convertible, through the instrumentality of Exchange, into books and works of art. Thus a very limited expenditure of money will produce results of the highest value.

Every State in the American Confederacy, I believe, has, at its capital, a collection of books known as the State Library. In most of them, however, the works are chiefly of a legal and political character, intended almost exclusively for the use of the legislators during the session of their body. In the intervals between the sessions the library is only occasionally open, and, even if open all the time, would be of little benefit to the mass of the public, who either feel no interest in, or are not prepared to understand the subjects to which the works are mainly devoted. Science, general literature, and the fine arts, have no place among them; and literary men, and the reading part of the public, do not make these libraries places of resort for literary relaxation, or for severer study. There are doubtless exceptions, but such is the general character of these institutions.

Now, this might very readily, and with the most desirable results, be changed. The resources of exchange, liberally employed, added to a very moderate annual appropriation, judiciously applied, would build up in your State capitals libraries which would be just sources of pride, and afford, moreover, invaluable means of reference to scholars, and of cultivation and improvement to the whole people. There could be no spirit of exclusiveness in such institutions; each man would feel that he was enjoying the advantages which he had himself aided to procure, and that he and his children might freely avail of them without fear or favor. This would be a true intellectual democracy—the best books, selected to suit the wants of all classes and professions, *freely thrown open to the use of all*. With reference to Exchanges, such a library would be the most proper channel through which the business should be conducted—the appropriate seat of the STATE EXCHANGE AGENCY. It would open an account with the institutions of the State desirous of partaking of the advantages of the system, and with the national central dépôt, and thus be put in relation with the whole scientific and literary world.

A liberal system of domestic exchanges—each State setting apart for the library of each of her sister States copies of all the public documents, of every description, published by her authority—would make each of the State libraries a depository of the complete materials for the history of every State in the Union, and thus the liability of important public historical records to loss or destruction would be diminished thirty fold; while the lights they throw upon legislation would be placed in possession of legislators in every portion of the country.

Let the means which have been hinted be judiciously used, and the STATE LIBRARIES of America will, ere long, in extent and usefulness, equal any similar institutions in the world.

Great as undoubtedly are the advantages which have already been suggested as likely to flow from the general adoption of the system of Exchange, yet it would be deprived of by far its greatest claim to the support of the wise and good, but for its important moral bearings. It is chiefly, as it tends to open between the people of the various nations of the world an intercourse of kindness and courtesy, to throw down the barriers of national prejudice, and cultivate a spirit of national peace and good will, that

